

Most Prosperous Year in History of American Sport Comes to Close This Week

Amazing Revival Of Interest Shown In All Athletics

Craze for Indulgence in Sport and Desire to See Contests Will Continue to Grow in 1920; Baseball, Racing, Boxing, Football, Tennis, Golf Thrive

By W. O. McGeehan

The year 1919 showed an amazing revival of interest in all sports. There is every indication that this interest will increase during the year 1920, which has a crowded calendar of international sports, including the Olympic games.

In England they attribute the increased interest in sports to the desire of war-weary peoples to forget in play the world tragedy of four years. This spirit is especially encouraged in Great Britain, and the indulgence in sports is held up as a panacea for labor unrest and all the ills to which the human race has fallen heir through the World War.

The revival in baseball astonished the magnates who were exceedingly skeptical as to their prospects early in the year. They cut down the playing schedules and took other measures to retrench. Instead of apathy they found intense enthusiasm and they enjoyed one of the most prosperous years that baseball ever saw.

The winning of the world's series by the Cincinnati Reds was a surprise and a shock to the dope. There have been some vague insinuations made against the honesty of this series, but there is nothing to indicate that baseball has finally been reached by the gamblers. The Cincinnati baseball team was a better team than the White Sox at the time the world's series was played and the better team won.

In professional boxing the most startling event of the year was the sensational victory of Jack Dempsey over Jess Willard at Toledo. This bout drew something in the neighborhood of \$400,000, the biggest house from the money point of view that was ever drawn. The second most interesting event in fistiana was the defeat of Joe Beckett by Georges Carpentier, the French soldier boxer.

This means that Carpentier will meet Jack Dempsey for the world's championship somewhere and some time in 1920. Indications are that something like a million dollars will be taken in at the gate when these two meet.

Inclusives Limit Attendance

Football crowds in 1919 were limited only by the size of the inclosures where the games were played. It is quite certain that had there been fields big enough to hold those who wanted to see them the Army-Navy game and the Yale-Harvard game would have drawn something in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million people. As it was football, like baseball, broke all records in the matter of attendance.

The numbers of the devotees to all amateur sports were almost doubled last year, according to attendance figures and to the estimates of the dealers in sporting goods. The ranks of the golfers and the tennis players have been augmented to an amazing extent. So many new amateurs turned out to the woods this fall that sporting guns were cleaned out early in the season.

The amateur sportsmen figured to a far greater extent in the late war than did the professional sportsmen. That is why the revival in amateur sports is more marked. The amateur golfers, tennis players and football players in the army and navy far outnumbered the professionals in baseball, pugilism and other "pro" sports.

Part of this zest for the indulgence is due to the effect of the army training on the citizens who were forced to become soldiers in a hurry. They have learned the benefit of athletic training and most of them now take a greater pride in keeping fit and realize the benefit of physical training. This inclination is one that is worthy of encouragement. The English government, realizing this, is doing everything to foster this desire for participation in outdoor sports.

Among the international sports on the calendar for the coming year—in addition to the Olympic games—are the international yacht race, possible rowing contests and field days in which American colleges will compete with British colleges, international golf, tennis and polo. The Carpentier-Dempsey bout will be an international affair of no small interest.

Expect Many Baseball 'Holdouts'

Baseball will face some troubles early in the season. There is the internal strife in the American league, and both of the big leagues are faced with the certainty that the players will demand substantial increases. There will be more than the usual crop of holdouts in 1920, and some of them may remain holdouts.

Horse racing enjoyed a most profitable year in this vicinity. In fact the rush to the tracks found the accommodations all too inadequate. Racing men are preparing for a bigger year still in 1920. On the whole the game seems to have developed a better following than it has had for years, and the officials have shown a disposition to keep the sport clean.

The prospects for a great revival in professional boxing are big. It is practically assured that the next Legislature will permit boxing again in New York State. It is merely a matter of how many rounds will be allowed. This will bring most of the important contests to New York.

Unless something decidedly unforeseen should happen, this craze for indulgence in sports and the desire to see athletic contests will continue to grow. The numbers of the amateur sportsmen are certain to increase. The followers of professional sports will remain enthusiastic only as long as the professional sports which attract them are kept clean.

The professional promoter will make more money in 1920 than he has in the year just passing, provided he has the good sense to keep his exhibitions clean and keeps faith with his patrons.

Basketball Teams, Jose Capablanca Strengthened, in Full Swing Again

The basketball season of 1919-20 was exceptionally prosperous and successful, considering the various handicaps under which the game was played. When the sport was being ushered in the troops were beginning to pack their kits preparatory to returning home, and everybody was looking forward to getting back to normal life again. Nevertheless, the game was played in the various colleges, by amateur teams and by professional fives and the contests drew big crowds.

Although the teams of the intercollegiate league played a regular schedule of games, no trophy was awarded the winner, Pennsylvania, because of the unusual conditions. By the time the second term had arrived many of the students had received their discharge and had returned to their studies, but it was felt that it would be the better policy simply to stage the contests and award no emblem.

Dartmouth did not participate in the sport at all last year. The other five teams did and finished in the following order: Penn., Yale, Cornell, Princeton and Columbia. Mike Sweeney, of Penn., was the leading scorer with a total of 95 points, leading Van Slick, of Yale, by 25 points.

The American Expeditionary Forces had many teams playing the game. The tournament held at Paris last year was very popular with the doughboys. The two leading teams were Johns and St. Nazaire, which finished first and second, respectively, in the tournament. The professional leagues of Pennsylvania and New York suspended activity last year, but are running stronger than ever this season. The intercollegiate league is again in action.

Star Performers of Remarkable Seasons on Diamond and Gridiron



Baseball Holds Its Position As Leading Game

By W. J. Macbeth

The season of 1919 has gone down into history as the greatest by far ever experienced by baseball. This broad statement is made with every consideration for every branch of the national pastime. And baseball is the national game without question of a doubt; one has but to turn to the 1919 records to establish the point.

While professional baseball represents only one branch of the game, it has become so firmly established in public favor through the major and minor leagues as to serve an excellent criterion for America's great summer game as a whole. To demonstrate the exceptional success of professional baseball this past season it is but necessary to remark that every one of the sixteen clubs of the National and American leagues showed fair interest, or better, in investment. These two leagues were practically tied in the matter of public patronage, and each drew over the \$3,000,000 mark in paid admissions.

Moguls Feared Losses

Major league operators were so doubtful of the future of the game in the spring of 1919 that they decided to shorten the major league schedules from 150 to 140 games. By throwing out fourteen games for each club they saved a small sum in the matter of salaries, but did not seriously curtail overhead expenses. The saving was quite offset by increases in railway fares and hotels. But in spite of the shortened schedule, though the scale of admission prices remained as formerly, business was better than ever before. This was due to a number of causes.

To begin with, the reaction of the late war was left an indelible mark simply mad for recreation and entertainment. Every sport, professional and amateur, experienced the stimulation of this reaction, but none more than baseball. The game which legalized Sunday baseball in the State of New York was a wonderful boon for on the Sabbath when any of Greater New York's representatives were home either the Polo Grounds or Ebbets Field was filled to capacity.

But not the least contributory cause to the great major league revival was the fact that the game was played in the respective fields. The race in the American League was a thing of beauty from the very start almost to the last day. The White Sox of Chicago did not lose a game until the week before the close of the season. They led the Yankees, because of excellent pitching, took the lead and the Sox dropped back momentarily into third place. But less than thirty days found Chicago back at the top of the heap and Kid Gleason's men maintained the advantage to the end. Five clubs as late as mid-September were all bunched within a few games of one another—New York, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis and Detroit.

In baseball, as in practically all of the other major sports, the season of 1919 proved an epic of surprises. Pat Moran and his Cincinnati Reds sprung the greatest surprise baseball had during the past season by winning the National League pennant and then taking the highly favored White Sox into camp in the series for the championship of the world.

Moran New Miracle Man

To Pat Moran, baseball's latest Miracle Man, belongs much of the credit for the National League's great year of 1919. When the curtain was rung up on the campaign it looked like a virtual walkover for McGraw's Giants to most of the critics. Cincinnati had experienced the most devastating loss during spring training in Texas, and a number of the stars of the club were "holdouts" to the very last moment. The club was in wretched physical condition for the opening, while the Giants were away on their tour.

Moran's great pitching staff, which later was to humble the proud White Sox so unexpectedly in the world's series, proved a master for New York's erstwhile crushing offense. The punt was settled right at the Polo Grounds during a visit of the Reds in August, when Cincinnati won four of six games played.

Cincinnati clinched the lead in this most important series and acquired the confidence necessary to thwart every succeeding drive of McGraw. The Giant manager tried desperately to rally his forces. He bolstered the pitching staff by securing Arthur Neh and Phil Douglas. But the strain on the other veteran pitchers had told, and then in the crisis several of his

Holy Cross Retains Laurels as Leader Of Eastern Colleges

College baseball was resumed on a post-war basis in 1919. By the time the opening games had arrived most of the students had been discharged from service and had returned to their studies. The result was a splendid playing season. The Holy Cross College nine, coached by Jesse Burkett, which had won the championship last year, was declared to be the best college team in the East again.

The Worcester collegians lost but one game in twenty-three contests; this to Fordham, in ten innings. Fordham later was beaten by teams which Holy Cross had defeated.

Among the other teams which showed good records at the close of the season were Brown, Fordham, Cornell, Yale, Harvard, Navy and Princeton. Holy Cross, which the previous year had sent Ryan, pitcher, to the Giants, this year sent Sizat and Down, two fine young outfielders, to the New York club, while Gill, a pitcher, was signed by Washington. Other stars were Fitzpatrick, of Boston College, a pitcher; Cove, of Yale, a pitcher; Sawyer, of Yale, second baseman; Felton, of Harvard, pitcher, and Trimble, of Princeton, catcher.

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Upsets Aplenty in Football; Only Four Colleges Unbeaten

Penn State, Illinois, Centre and Oregon Hailed as Sectional Title Holders

By Ray McCarthy

Penn State in the East, Illinois in the Middle West, Centre College in the South, and the University of Oregon in the Far West, stand out as the best teams of the unusual and remarkable 1919 football season. Of these Centre College was the only eleven that did not suffer defeat and is the only aggregation that can claim the championship of its section without fear of dispute. Each of the others named struck a snag during the season's course; in fact, every college team in the country except four was struck down at least once during the grand fall mele.

Harvard, Stevens Tech, Centre College and Notre Dame were the only eleven which did not feel the sting of defeat during the 1919 campaign. Harvard, however, had a comparatively light schedule, and in one of its few hard games, that with Princeton, the Crimson was rather fortunate in getting a tie. By a spirited rally in the last few minutes of play the Cambridge students managed to rush the ball over for a touchdown and a 10-10 tie.

Early indications were given of what was to be expected during this first post-war football season when soon after the teams got under way Boston College rolled into New Haven one fine October day, and downed the Blue by a 5 to 3 score. That same day Syracuse startled the football world by plastering the Pittsburgh Panthers, the famous Glenn Warner machine, which had gone along for four years bowling them all over.

After that they came fast and thick, until the football experts were dizzy with the rapidity of starting upsets. By the middle of the season these upsets, coupled with several other contributing factors, had combined to create an entirely new situation in the great college game, and it was at least no great upset to learn at the end of this topsy-turvy whirlwind gridiron season that it was one of the greatest, financially and otherwise, in the history of the sport.

Of course, long before the start had been made in the various schedules, it was felt that 1919 would be a humdinger of a football feast. But as in the other post-war sports nobody was ready for such an overwhelming success as arrived so suddenly and with such impetus.

Indirectly the great war was the cause of it all. The horrors and the worry of the conflict over the great American public turned with its dollars in hand to amusement and entertainment. The people of the United States began celebrating the day of the armistice, and they haven't stopped yet. This

Rowing Quickly Is Restored on Pre-War Basis

Despite the fact that the Intercollegiate Regatta was not held on the Hudson last June, rowing activities were staged on practically a pre-war basis throughout the country in 1919. The annual National Amateur Regatta was held as usual, being run off on Lake Quinsigamond at Worcester, Mass., on August 1. There were numerous college dual races. The Harvard-Yale struggle took place at New London, the Childs Cup race was held at Princeton and the American Henley enjoyed a wonderful success at Philadelphia.

One of the most notable victories of the year in rowing events was that of Alfred Felton of Australia, over Ernest Barry of the Thames, England, October 27. Barry had held the sculling title since 1912, when he had defeated Richard Arnst, Felton, in wrestling the honors from Barry, won by a margin of six lengths and helped to make the year notably consistent in regard to upsets in sports.

The Navy was considered by the majority as the best of the college crews in 1919. The Middles defeated both Penn and Syracuse in the American Henley, on May 21. Penn later won the Childs Cup from the Navy and afterwards Cornell downed the Red and Blue in a dual race. Early in the season Yale trimmed the Tigers on the Housatonic.

The Yale-Harvard tussle, the first post-war race, was resumed with all of its former color and brilliancy. The Blue won the dual classic in splendid style, although the Crimson was the favorite.

25,000 See Nationals

One of the largest crowds that ever attended the National Regatta witnessed the races at Worcester. It was estimated that more than 25,000 saw the events from the banks and other vantage points. The Duluth Boat Club oarsmen, as has been their custom for the past five years, carried off most of the honors, winning five of the twelve championships.

Jack Kelly, of the Vesper Boat Club of Philadelphia, carried away the title as national sculling champion, having won it virtually by his own way. The Duluth crew won the national senior eight race and the Century Boat Club, of St. Louis, captured first place in the senior four. The national double scull race was won by William Faulkner and Gary, of the Riverside Boat Club of Cambridge.

In addition to winning the sculling championship, established a new amateur record for a quarter of a mile. He covered the distance on the Schuylkill River in 1:14-4-5.

There was considerable barabrage and much speculation as to the result of the regatta on the Poughkeepsie, but the year passed without the tourney being held. However, the regatta which previously had been postponed because of the war was now on an even more pretentious scale.

The stewards have decided to make the distance three miles instead of four and it is expected that all of the colleges that ever competed in the race will again enter, as well as several others. It is quite likely that two or more Western crews will be invited to participate in the meet, including Leland Stanford and Washington University from the Pacific Coast.

Retirements effected for the period after the war, when the owners expected to be confronted with lessened interest in baseball, led to many one-year contracts being made. Longtime contracts for a number of stars terminated with the last season. Some of the players are said to hold that with the owners obtaining greater patronage larger salaries can be paid.

Women Golfers in Tie

PIEHURST, N. C., Dec. 27.—A field of more than thirty took part in a golf contest for women at the Pinehurst Country Club, to-day. The tournament ended in a tie at 24 between Mrs. Frank S. Danforth, of North Fork, and Mrs. J. D. Hathaway, of Montreal.

Halcyon Days More for Horseracing

"Sport of Kings" More Popular, Particularly in the Metropolitan District

By W. J. Macbeth

The American turf throughout the year of 1919 enjoyed one of the most successful seasons of its history. Certainly nothing approached the popularity of the sport of kings as evidenced on the metropolitan tracks since the halcyon days of open betting. From the first bugle call at Jamaica early in May until "taps" were sounded at Empire City late in October the metropolitan public, day by day, bore testimony in countless, enthusiastic thousands to America's ingrained love of horseflesh bred in the purple.

Nor is it astonishing that such was the case. Thoroughbred racing suffered less in the United States from the effects of the great World War than any other major sport. Even in the drear, drab season of 1918, when baseball was suspended in golf and tennis and the great winter sports, the running turf maintained its popularity and patronage.

Even those most prejudiced against the game conceded its operation because of the close association of sported horseflesh to the needs of the war. The magnates of the turf did not neglect to shoulder every patriotic responsibility, both as to time and money, and the race track shows the way in the various war loans and war charities drives.

General conditions could not have been better arranged in favor of the promoter. In a word, the United States had the field all to itself. Racing in Canada was passe; it did not recover sufficiently in Europe to attract any of the American crowd.

Stakes Are Increased

To the credit of the owners of the turf it must be stated that due cognizance was taken of this public interest and in a manner that should go far toward stabilizing the sport. Not only were stakes increased in value, but also the overnight events for the cheap players. Every one of the metropolitan courses—and Saratoga as well—devoted special attention to improvement of the tracks, buildings and surroundings.

There were many outstanding features in the turf season of 1919. Perhaps the most sensational of the many was the Purse War, which was won by the juvenile champion, the great two-year-old colt, Man o' War, of the Glen Riddle Farm. Not since the time of the unbeaten Colin had an up-and-coming yearling shown anything approximating the class of Man o' War when he closed his racing season with a practical walkover from a wonderful field in the Belmont Stakes. Man o' War, always ridden by Johnny Loftus, went to the post ten times during the season and suffered but one defeat.

This was in the rich Sanford Memorial at Saratoga, in the hands of the famous C. H. Pettingill, who acted as starter that day because of the illness of Mars Cassidy, and Man o' War was left as the prize in a heavy and fractious field. Three different times the great colt was racing up to his company, only to be carelessly allowed to run into bad pockets. He was in close quarters to the line, and when getting through there he simply raced over his field and finished a good second to Harry Payne Whitney's Upset. The foreman of the shrewd judgment of the owner that this second of Fair Play and Mubuhah, in view of this excusable defeat, is as great as even the unbeaten Colin. Barring the fact that Man o' War was never fully extended at any time.

Earnings More Than \$83,000

Man o' War's net earnings for the this winning, it ranked second to the this winning it ranked second to the earnings of Commander J. K. L. Ross's three-year-old gelding, Billy Kelly. Sir Barton broke his maiden by winning the rich Kentucky Derby, and within a few weeks added the Preakness, the Withers and the Belmont. Sam Hildreth's Purse War, the measure of Sir Barton in the Dwyer.

After the Dwyer Sir Barton was retired until September. In Maryland, after one defeat, he started a new season by winning the Pimlico special races, which brought his total winnings for the season to \$83,250.

Sir Barton's wonderful season was largely due to the fact that he was the stable of Commander J. K. L. Ross at the top of the list in earnings. Billy Kelly, a three-year-old gelding that had been a terna, the two-year-old honors of 1918-1919 which ran second to Sir Barton, his stablemate, in both the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, was also a consistent winner for Ross. But he, like Sir Barton, was never fully extended at any time.

The three-year-old championship, unobtainable by Sir Barton, was won by a fortunate horse, the three-year-old gelding, Billy Kelly. However, the regatta which previously had been postponed because of the war was now on an even more pretentious scale.

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Knapp's Lapse Cost Race

Willis Sharpe Kilmer's great mud horse, Extermination, beat Purchase in the Saratoga Cup, at a mile and three-quarters. The track was deep in mud that day and it was a record to do the trick. Even then Purchase might have given weight and a trimming to his older rival, but he was not at his best. He was beaten by Knapp's Lapse, who was not at his best at the time. Purchase, on the other hand, was twice defeated in eleven starts. He lost to Eternal in the Handicap, and Sir Barton previously had twice made Eternal look like a selling partner.